

process, and I will continue working with him and all of our colleagues to make that commitment a reality.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Budget Control Act of 2011 expires this year, and that is a good thing.

This law led to a decade of underfunding our domestic priorities, from which it will take years to recover. Right now, in communities across the country, our infrastructure is crumbling, millions of Americans cannot access Federal programs for which they qualify, and we are falling behind in investing in science, research, and development on the global economic stage—all of this because the Budget Control Act set artificial and unrealistically low caps on discretionary spending, and it inflicted arbitrary, across-the-board spending cuts known as sequestration.

President Biden understands the real consequences of this decade-old decision. That is why tomorrow, President Biden will propose a 16-percent increase for nondefense investments in his budget. We cannot build back better until we recover the ground we have already lost.

I want to give a few examples of what I mean. For many low-income families with young children, the beginning of summer means the end of school breakfast and lunch programs and waking up every morning dreading how you will be able to put food on the table for your children. Basic nutrition is a basic requirement for child health, development, and education.

The Summer EBT program is meant to help these families bridge to this gap, with an extra \$30 or \$60 per child every month. This is a program that has proven itself successful, reducing the number of households with food-insecure children from 43 percent to just under 35 percent. But because of the Budget Control Act, this program has been flat-funded. We could not expand upon its success. And today, only 16 percent of children who need access to USDA food programs have that access.

This problem of underinvestment in successful, worthwhile programs is true across our appropriations bills.

Our country, which has led in some of the greatest scientific discoveries of the last century, ranks 24th out of 36 developed nations for investments in university research and development as a share of GDP.

We once accounted for 69 percent of global research and development expenditures but have fallen to just under 30 percent. China now accounts for 23.9 percent of global research and development spending, and growing.

How did this happen? One analysis by the American Association for the Advancement of Science directly attributes \$200 billion in lost Federal research and development investments to the Budget Control Act. The National Science Foundation alone has lost \$2 billion a year, which could support more than 5,500 grants and 65,000 scientists, technicians, and students.

We cannot lead in a rapidly evolving technological landscape unless we are investing in science and our scientists.

Failing to do so only cedes the next great discovery to China at the cost of innovation here in the United States. As chair of the Appropriations Committee, I am committed to fighting for the investments in American science, research, medical progress, and technological development that our great Nation needs and deserves.

There has been a lot of talk in this Chamber about the need for a major infrastructure package to repair our Nation's crumbling bridges and roads, and I support addressing that need. But there is a reason why our roads are in disrepair, forcing the American people to spend nearly \$130 billion each year on vehicle repairs and operating costs. There is a reason why our drinking water systems lose the equivalent of 9,000 Olympic-size swimming pools of water every day. And there is a reason why one in five children lacks the high-speed internet connections they need to learn and participate in school.

That reason is a decade of budget caps that artificially constrained our ability to address these issues before they became the national limitation and embarrassment that they are today.

Now there is a \$44 billion backlog in airport improvement projects, \$35 billion in deferred maintenance for public housing, and \$472.6 billion in urgently needed funds to maintain and improve the Nation's drinking water infrastructure.

Over the last decade, we have lost ground in education, childcare, environmental protections, and affordable housing. The Budget Control Act did not constrain our national debt; it left us as a nation in disrepair.

Joe Biden understands this, and I commend him for taking the bold action to address this in the budget he will release tomorrow. As chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I look forward to working with the President, his administration, and my dear friend Vice Chairman SHELBY on passing responsible appropriations bills that address the damage caused by the Budget Control Act.

The end of the Budget Control Act gives us the opportunity to invest in our communities. Tomorrow, Congress will receive the President's budget. The full Appropriations Committee has already held hearings on the need to invest in our infrastructure and on the threat of domestic violent extremism, and in June, we will hold hearings on global leadership and national security. In June, our subcommittees will hold numerous hearings to scrutinize the President's budget.

When Congress returns in early June, it is essential that Congress, on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, work with the President to negotiate budget topline so that we can commence the appropriations process for the fiscal year that begins October 1. As Presi-

dent Biden has said, we can, should, and need to build back better.

#### TRIBUTE TO THERESA ALBERGHINI DIPALMA

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there is no State in America more beautiful than Vermont, but along with its jaw-dropping beauty, Vermont is home to some of the finest, most active and engaged citizens who make it such a special place.

Theresa Alberghini DiPalma is one of those people. Theresa recently let it be known that she will be leaving her senior position at the University of Vermont Health Network.

I have known Theresa and her late parents for more than 30 years. Theresa's parents were both public school teachers. They raised five children in Burlington, including Theresa. Her father Roy saw Active Duty as a lead navigator on bombers in the European theater in World War II. Her mother Connie was also a pillar of the community. She taught Spanish, and she was an accomplished musician and extraordinary cook.

Theresa grew up in Burlington, the youngest of those five kids and the only girl. After college, she started in my Washington office answering phones. She steadily climbed the professional ladder to be both my top healthcare adviser and then my legislative director.

For as long as I have been in the Senate, I have talked about the challenge of keeping, maintaining, and attracting young Vermonters to our State. More than 20 years ago, Theresa did just that. In the mid-nineties, Theresa returned to Vermont to be closer to family and to serve as Vermont's chief healthcare regulator.

After leaving government service, Theresa joined the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 2000, serving as assistant dean for external relations. In 2002, she was called to serve—first on a temporary basis and then permanently—at then-Fletcher Allen Health Care during a time of great challenge.

Theresa joined a dedicated team, led by Ed Colodny, which worked tirelessly to restore public trust in our State's academic medical center.

Theresa is now a senior vice president for external relations at the University of Vermont Health Network, where she and her colleagues support and lead an integrated healthcare delivery system in Vermont and New York, dedicated to ensuring that the more than 1 million people in the region have access to the care they need, close to home.

Theresa's commitment to the well-being of our communities is boundless. She has served on several boards, including Mercy Connections, the United Way of Northwest Vermont, the Lake Champlain Chamber, the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, VELCO, VGS, Vermont Business Roundtable, the

Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, and Governor Scott's Government Modernization and Efficiency Team, among others.

She is deeply committed to the professional advancement of women in our area and routinely mentors young professionals.

She and her husband Robert reside in Burlington. Marcelle and I think of their home on Maple Street as our second home. While I know one incredible chapter is closing for Theresa, I also know that she hasn't lost her passion for making Vermont a better place. I so look forward to seeing what is ahead.●

#### JANUARY 6 COMMISSION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the legislation to create an independent, bipartisan Commission to examine the January 6 attack on the Capitol that killed five people.

A full and honest review is critical not only to understand the events of that day but also to ensure the continued strength and well-being of our democracy.

On the afternoon of January 6, Americans watched in horror as thousands of insurrectionists stormed the Capitol to prevent the certification of a free and fair Presidential election.

Many of us carry vivid memories from that nightmarish day. We recall the panic and confusion, the shouting and chants of an angry mob, and the crashing of windows and doors being smashed inside these hallowed halls.

While many of us were on the Senate floor until being evacuated to a secure location by the Capitol Police and Sergeant at Arms, we have learned since that violent members of the mob were minutes away from reaching the Senate Chamber with us inside.

Capitol Police officers, upholding their sworn duty to protect and defend the Capitol and Members of Congress, were beaten with sticks, bats, and even the American flag as the mob charged the building.

Rioters broke into this very Chamber, dropping down from the Gallery, some carrying zip ties presumably to restrain any Senators or police officers they caught. Others were chanting "hang Mike Pence" while a makeshift gallows was built outside the Capitol Building.

While these memories remain clear, I fear the record for January 6 is being blurred by misinformation and political posturing.

An independent, bipartisan commission is our best chance to set the record straight and establish the truth about the events on January 6.

Congressional committees, the Department of Justice, and President Trump's impeachment trial have conducted their own reviews of the violence on that day and some of the events leading up to it. However, those reviews weren't comprehensive and

didn't have the stature of a congressionally mandated, independent, and bipartisan Commission, along the lines of the 9/11 Commission.

In addition to providing an independent and authoritative account of the January 6 attack, the Commission would evaluate the motivation for and planning of the attack, identify gaps in law enforcement preparation and response, and enable Congress and the administration to take action to prevent future attacks.

I would remind Senators that the same arguments being used against this Commission were used against forming the 9/11 Commission. "Reviews are already underway. It will become political. We need to look forward, not backward." But the 9/11 Commission revealed critical new information about the planning and implementation of that attack and made recommendations that led to landmark legislation. It is now the model of an independent Commission, and the legislation before us today is based on that model.

I call upon every one of my colleagues to support this serious, comprehensive, and bipartisan review of the violent attack on the Capitol.

We owe it to the American people to pass this legislation and establish an independent Commission.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

#### NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

*To the Secretary of the Senate:*

The nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, vice Daniel Habib Jorjani, PN265, having been referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

On the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 9 ayes (not counting 2 ayes by proxy) to 9 nays (counting 2 nays by proxy).

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision

stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY,  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
ARLINGTON, VA.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 21-38, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Australia for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.651 billion. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

HEIDI H. GRANT,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 21-38

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Australia.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$1.651 billion.

Other \$1.000 billion.

Total \$1.651 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to twelve (12) Weapons-Ready MQ-9B, Remotely Piloted Aircraft.

Fifteen (15) Raytheon Multi-Spectral Targeting Systems-D (MTS-D) EO/IR Sensors.

Sixteen (16) Lynx AN/APY-8 Synthetic Aperture Radars (SAR) with Ground Moving Target Indicator (GTMI).

Fifteen (15) RIO™ Communication Intelligence Systems.

Thirty-six (36) Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigations Systems (EGI) with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASMs).

Six (6) KMU-572 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) Tail Kits for 500lb Bombs.

Four (4) MXU-650 Airfoil Groups for 500lb Paveway II GBU-12.

Seven (7) MXU-1006 Airfoil Groups for 250lb Paveway II GBU-58.

Four (4) MAU-169 or MAU-209 Computer Control Groups (CCGs) for 250lb/500lb Paveway II GBU-58/GBU-12.

Six (6) FMU-139 Fuse Systems.

Twelve (12) MK-82 General Purpose 500lb Inert Bombs.

Five (5) High Bandwidth Compact Telemetry Modules (HCTMs).

Non-MDE: Also included are Honeywell aircraft engines; Certifiable Ground Control Stations (CGCSs); mobile Satellite Communication Ground Data Terminals (SGDTs); Leonardo SAGE 750 Electronic Surveillance Measures System (ESM); GATES/RSO/